

(Translation)

## INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

- VS -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al.

A F F I D A V I T

Deponent: OTA, Tamekichi

Date of birth: November 12, 1880

Domicile: 10 Miyamura-cho, Azabuku, Tokio

Having first duly sworn an oath as on the attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

(1) I entered the Diplomatic Service in 1904, and retired from office in September, 1937. I was in the office of Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary at Moscow from December 23, 1932, to July 28, 1936.

(2) I was appointed Ambassador to the Soviet Union on November 7, 1932. At that time, Mr. HIROTA had retired from office, and was recuperating his health. Before leaving Tokyo, I met him and exchanged views as to the purchase of the East China Railway. He said that there was necessity to open negotiations with the Soviet Government promptly for the purpose of improving the Soviet-Japanese relations. I was perfectly of the same opinion.

(3) On April 24, 1933, Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs KARAHAN told me that the Soviet Government was not unwilling to sell the East China Railway. Later, on May 2, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs LITVINOV, asking me to call on him, read out a note and handed it to me. The note said that the Soviet Government had not changed its policy as to the selling of the East China Railway; that it had no objection to selling the railway to the Manchoukuo Government either; and that the People's Commissar would like to propose to open negotiations concerning the question instantly. I reported everything by wire to the Foreign Office on all such occasions, and advised the Foreign Minister to urge the opening of negotiations in this connection.

(4) The Japanese Government decided, at the Cabinet conference of May 23, that it would agree to the proposal of the Soviet Government and purchase the East China Railway, provided that the negotiation be concluded on reasonable terms. It was considered proper that the Manchoukuo Government should be responsible for the purchase, and so it was settled that the said Government should take charge of the negotiation, if the consent of the Government was obtained. The Japanese Government was to act as a mediator to hasten the conclusion of the negotiation. And, upon deliberation with the Manchoukuo Government, the Japanese Government instructed me by wire, on the 28th of the same month, to make a reply to Mr. LITVINOV to the above effect. Thereupon, I met Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs KRESTINSKY on the 29th, and conveyed the reply of the Japanese Government in accordance with the said telegraphic instructions.

On June 3, I received a reply from Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs SOKOLNIKOV to the effect that the Soviet Government agreed to my proposal.

(5) The negotiation concerning the East China Railway was opened on June 27, at Tokyo, between the delegations of the Soviet and the Manchoukuo Government, through the good offices of the Japanese Foreign Minister. The whole text of the agreement was completed in March of the following year, 1935, and it was signed by the representatives of both Governments on March 23, 1935.

(6) As to the documents and telegrams referred to in (3) and in (4), I searched for them in the files of the Foreign Office, and found that they have all been lost in the fire, the originals as well as the copies.



On this 12th day of July, 1947, at Tokyo.

/Signed/ OTA, Tamekichi /SEAL/

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the above-mentioned date and place.

/Signed/ MORISHIMA, Goro /SEAL/

Witness

O A T H

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/Signed/ OTA, Tamekichi /SEAL/

can be accomplished to a great extent if it is done in the right way. I think, in order to achieve a basic understanding, the Chinese will naturally make demands to make. We will be ready to listen to them. On the other hand, Japan has also many demands to make on this matter I intend to carry on full negotiations.

Exh. NO

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供述者

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荒木貞夫 其他

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亞米利加合衆國其他

極東國際軍事裁判所

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亞米利加合衆國其他

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- 一、私は一九〇四年外務省に入り一九三七年九月同省の勤務から退職しました。右期間中一九三二年十二月二十三日から一九三六年七月二十八日迄特命全權大使として莫斯科に在勤しました。
- 二、私は一九三二年十一月七日在ソ大使に任命されました。當時廣田氏はリタイヤーして保養して居りました。私は東京出發前同氏と面會し東支鐵道譲渡の件に關し意見を交換しましたが、同氏は日ソ關係増進の爲速かに本件に付ソ聯側と交渉を開始し圓滿妥結に努力するの必要ありと述べ、私も全然同感でありました。
- 三、一九三三年四月二十四日、外務人民委員代理カラヘン氏は私に對しソ聯側は東支鐵道の賣却を厭がるものではないと云ふ趣旨を述べました。越えて五月二日外務人民委員リトヴィノフ氏は私の來訪を求め、ソ聯政府は東支鐵道賣却の方針を變更しては居らない。又滿洲國に賣却しても宜しい。又本委員は本件交渉に即時着手せん事を提議するものであると云ふ趣旨を書いた書面を口述した上該文書を手交しました。私は以上の次第を夫々其の都度外務省に電報し且本件交渉開始促進方に關する私の意見を電報しました。
- 四、日本政府は五月二十三日の開議に於て日本はソ聯政府の提議に應じ適當の條件の下に協議成立するに於ては東支鐵道の買收を行ふ事(一)滿洲國が買收當事者たる事適當と認めらるゝに付同國の同意を得るに

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於て之をしてソ側との交渉に當らしめ、日本は右交渉の進捗を計る  
爲仲介斡旋をなす事を決定し、且滿洲國政府と協議の上同月二十八日  
右趣旨をリトヴィノフ氏に對し回答する様訓電差ししました。  
仍つて私は同月二十九日クレスチンスキー外務人民委員代理に會つて  
該訓電の次第を申入れました。  
六月三日ソコルニコフ外務人民委員代理から私に對しソ聯政府に於て  
私の申入に對し同意する旨の回答がありました。  
五、本件交渉は六月二十七日から東京でソ聯滿洲國代表者間に日本外相  
斡旋の下に開始され翌一九三五年三月に疊部の成案が出来、同月二十  
三日滿ソ兩國間に東支鐵道讓渡に關する協定が成立した譯であります。  
六、前述三及四に引用した文書及電報は外務省に就き取調べました處、  
省には其の原文も寫も焼失して現存して居ないとの事であります。

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昭和二十二年（一九四七年）七月十二日於

供述者 大 田 爲 吉

右へ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證

明シマス

同日 於 東京

立會人 守 島 伍 郎

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